

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-10 OIC-04 DRC-01 /232 W
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O 011010 MAR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4341

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 1336

PASS STR AND TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT PANELS ON DISC AND OTHER TAX PRACTICES

REF: A. STATE 040252; B. STATE 040253; C. GENEVA 958

1. BEFORE NOTIFYING EC PER REF A THAT WE ACCEPT EC'S
NOMINATION OF VOGEL AS TAX EXPERT MEMBER OF PANEL,
REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF WASHINGTON INTENTIONS RE OECD
SEC AND IMF STAFF AS OUTLINED REF B. PARA 4 REF B SAYS IMF
WILLING MAKE TAX EXPERT AVAILABLE IF OECD WILL ALSO DO SO.
IF USOECD SOUNDINGS PER REF B INDICATE HACKETT AVAILABLE
IT LOOKS LIKE WE MAY END UP WITH THREE TAX EXPERT CANDIDATES
WHILE IT HAS BEEN AGREED THERE SHOULD BE ONLY TWO TAX
EXPERTS (PARA 2 REF B). IF HACKETT LINKS HIS AVAILABILITY
TO UNDERSTANDING IMF STAFF WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE,
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PREMATURE U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF VOGEL COULD MEAN
BOTH IMF AND OECD WOULD WITHDRAW WHEN THEY LEARN
THERE IS ROOM ONLY FOR ONE OR THE OTHER, NOT BOTH. IF
WASHINGTON WOULD PREFER IMF AND OECD EXPERTS,
SUGGEST WE HOLD UP NOTIFICATION OUR ACCEPTANCE OF VOGEL.

2. MISSION ALSO WONDERS WHETHER DIRECT U.S. SOUNDINGS
IN PARIS ABOUT HACKETT IS PROPER PROCEDURE WHEN WE DO
NOT KNOW IF EC WOULD ACCEPT HIM. WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER
(AND, INCIDENTALLY SLOWER) TO TELL EC THROUGH GATT SEC
THAT WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT MESSERE (WHO HAS IN
ANY EVENT BEEN WITHDRAWN AS EC CANDIDATE - REF C) BUT
INQUIRE IF EC WOULD ACCEPT HACKETT. IF EC AGREEABLE,
GATT SEC APPROACH TO HACKETT COULD OF COURSE BE
SUPPLEMENTED BY USOECD PER REF B TO BE SURE HACKETT
UNDERSTANDS IMPORTANCE OF TASK.

3. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM IN OBTAINING SERVICES OF BOTH IMF
AND OECD EXPERTS (IF EACH WILLING SERVE ONLY IF OTHER ONE
DOES) IS EC POSITION REPORTED REF C THAT THEY ARE WILLING
TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES BUT WANT U.S. TO ACCEPT
ONE OF THREE EXPERTS NOMINATED BY EC. DALE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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